

A Fishmongering Railroad.
While looking through a pile of old papers a correspondent came across the following article in a New York paper of the date of Feb. 6, 1859, under the caption of "The Smelt Railroad."

"It is well known that the Portsmouth railroad has to turn everything to account to pay running expenses, and many are the jokes they perpetrate upon the conductors in reference to their shifts to get a living. It is said that one of them last year was accustomed to bring fish from Portsmouth and peddle them out on the way to Concord.

"One day he brought along smelts, dealing out to customers at every station, till he got to Suncook, where he blew his horn and an old woman came out and wanted six, 'just a pattern—all I've got left, you're in the nick of time,' said he, and he began to count them and found only five. 'How's this? I should have six.' And he began to count his fingers and reckon over how he had disposed of the four dozen he had started with. After awhile: 'I have it! Hold on a little while and I'll be back,' said he, and he ran the train back seven miles to a place where he had let a woman have one more than she had paid for, got it, came back to Suncook and let the old woman have the six she wanted, and then the 'smelt' train went to Concord."—Manchester (N. H.) Union.

Sentinel and Hussar.

Two well known military terms, "sentinel" and "hussar," afford capital instances of the remarkable manner in which a nation does its word twisting. At first sight there seems little connection between the Latin word *sentina*, signifying the hold of a ship, and a soldier keeping watch over his sleeping comrades. The connecting link is afforded by the word *sentinator*, the Roman who pumped the hold of Caesar's galleys free of bilge water. Upon constant vigilance depended the lives of the entire ship's company.

Similarly the word "hussar" is merely a Hungarian term signifying "twentieth." It arose in this manner: When Matthias Corvinus became king of Hungary in 1458 he was extremely afraid of foreign invasion. He consequently raised an army by the simple expedient of commandeering every twentieth individual in the land; hence the hussar.

Mistake. Misaken.

The use of these words seems to be so anomalous as to need some inquiry and explanation.

I may be mistaken, for I continually make mistakes. But when shown to have been mistaken I own myself in error. Yet, if I am mistaken, it is not the error of him who mistakes me? But it may be that I am right and that he is mistaken, though I suppose that I ought to take him aright and not mistake him. Nevertheless I often have to say in argument: "YOU were quite right. I was mistaken."

In a word, though he who mistakes must be in error, our common use of language considers him who is mistaken to be so.—Notes and Queries.

Fanatical Morocco.

Mo-ecce, in spite of its close proximity to Europe, is the most fanatical of the Mohammedan countries. Christians are hated by the natives throughout the country, and it is often very dangerous to go outside the town of Tangier. The business of Morocco is entirely in the hands of the Moorish Jews, who amass considerable wealth in the coast ports. It is not prudent for a Christian to stay anywhere but in the Jewish quarter. At the capital, Morocco City, and Fez the natives extort and hurl stones at the "foreign infidels," as they call them, and no Christian is safe in the streets unless escorted by soldiers.

The Good Red Grouse.

Besides his many other claims to distinction the "good red grouse" has one which is often forgotten. He is the one vertebrate creature peculiar to the British Isles. All the rest of our fauna is duplicated elsewhere, and even his cousin, the black cock, has foreign relations, but the true grouse exists nowhere in the world except within the United Kingdom, and considering what a noble game bird he is, how hardy and plucky and how magnificent in his flight, the fact is really something to be proud of.—London Globe.

Strong Coolies.

The power of endurance of the Chinese coolies is marvelous. Many will travel over forty miles, carrying a heavy load on their backs and think nothing of it. A writer mentions the case of certain coolies who, after going twenty-seven hours without food and having carried a heavy burden in the meantime, still had strength enough left to offer to carry a man fifteen miles farther.

Signed Against Signing.

Man With Petition—I'd like to have your name on this, Ruggles. It's a mere formality, you know, but—

Business Man—I'd like to oblige you, Rackson, but a fellow came round last week with a pledge binding the signer not to put his name on a petition of any kind for one year, and I signed it.

Chance For Heroism.

Adorer (anxiously)—What did your father say?

Sweet Girl—Oh, he got so angry I was afraid to stay and listen. He's in perfectly terrible rage. Go in and please him.

The Wicked Parrots.

Miss Nancy—I wonder why it is that sailors are such terrible swearers?

Cousin Tom—Why, don't you know? They learn profanity of the parrots. I thought everybody knew that—Boston Transcript.

ROASTING MEATS.

A Chef Says the Proper Process Is Almost Unknown.

"A good part of the dyspepsia that prevails in America," said the chef of an exclusive hotel to a Philadelphia Record writer, "is due to the custom of baking instead of roasting meat. We say we roast our meats. We talk glibly of 'roast beef,' 'roast chicken' and so on, but what we should say is 'baked beef' and 'baked chicken,' for anything cooked in an oven is baked, not roasted. We don't talk of roast bread, do we? Yet we cook our meat in the oven as our bread is cooked."

"To roast meat you must cook it on a spit before the fire. You must turn it constantly. Every little while you must baste it. It is in every way better than meat baked. It is tenderer, sweeter and more digestible. Also its appearance is more appetizing, and the appearance of a viand has a tremendous effect on its digestibility."

"Experiment, actual experiment, has shown that the sight of an appetizing dish starts the gastric juice to flowing instantly and that such a dish digests much more quickly and thoroughly than an unappetizing one. Altogether, we ought to go back to the genuine roasting process of our ancestors, and our health would improve and there would be less talk about vegetarianism."

"Of course I and all good chefs actually roast meat. But roasting is with the average cook in the average American house an unknown process."

The Jewels of a Saint.

The idea of sanctity usually carries with it a suggestion of poverty, and it may seem a contradiction to refer to the jewels of a saint. It has been customary for painters who choose for their subjects saints or martyrs to treat them with the utmost simplicity. In a majority of cases they are depicted as devoid of ornament or decoration, and in the few exceptional instances, as when the subject of the picture is a ruler or king, the gems are few and purely symbolic, being sufficient only to denote the rank of the individual portrayed.

Raphael, who was perhaps the greatest painter of religious subjects the world has known, has in most of his works adhered strictly to this rule, but in the trend of "St. Cecilia" is to be noticed a departure from it. A row of pearls, to which are attached three pendants, ornaments her gown at the neck, and this is her only jewelry. The hair is simply arranged and without a jewel of any kind. The single row of gems, themselves the emblems of chastity, emphasizes the exquisite simplicity of the face.

What Emerson Wanted.

"Those who knew Mr. Emerson best," said Miss Louisa M. Alcott, "were assured that what seemed the decline of his faculties in his latter years was largely but a seeming. It was only words he could not command at will. His very forgetfulness of the names of things would often give occasion for a flash of his quaint, shrewd wit. I remember once he started for his usual walk, when a light shower came up, and he returned for his umbrella.

"He could not remember the word umbrella, and we, who had not noticed the shower, had no clew to what he was searching for. Another walking stick was brought him, another hat, a fresh kerchief, only to be refused with that perplexed shake of the head. 'I want,' said he at last—I want—that thing that your friends always borrow—and never bring back! Could any one fail to recognize that description?"

Plover's Eggs.

Few people realize that there are other eggs besides those of hens which have enormous commercial value. In England so called "plover's eggs," which are really those of lapwings, are sent to the city markets from the rural districts by hundreds of thousands. They are esteemed a great delicacy and fetch a very high price, the use of them being for that reason confined almost exclusively to the aristocracy and other luxurious persons. Being only about the size of pigeons' eggs, a good many of them are required to make a dish. Men make a business of gathering them from the nests in marshes and wet fields.—London Standard.

Michael Angelo's Attempt at Suicide.

Michael Angelo, after receiving a painful injury to his leg by falling from a scaffold while at work upon "The Last Judgment," became so melancholy that he shut himself in his room, refused to see any one and "resolved to let himself die." Fortunately his intentions were frustrated by the celebrated physician Bacio Rontini, who learned by accident of his condition.

The Latest College Yell.

"Just as Gladys was preparing to sing 'Douglas, Douglas,' into phonograph for young Rushmore last night a mouse ran across her ankle."

"What happened?"

"Rushmore swiped the phonograph record, and now his class is said to have the most blood curdling college yell that was ever heard."—Houston Post.

Civic Jealousy.

Visitor—You haven't got half as nice a cemetery here as we have in Elmville.

Prominent Citizen of Hawville)—No; I've always heard that the cemetery is the only part of your town that holds out any inducements for permanent residents.—Chicago Tribune.

A Feminine Think.

He—Think twice, love, before you refuse me.

She—Why should I think twice?

He—Because, my dear, a woman never thinks twice the same.—London Judy.

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